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DOCKET NO: 270412US0PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
HANSGEORG ERNST, ET AL. : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION
SERIAL NO: NEW U.S. PCT APPLICATION :
(BASED ON PCT/EP03/12804)
FILED: HEREWITH :
FOR: METHOD FOR PRODUCING :
CAROTENOIDS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

A clean copy of the **Replacement Abstract** is attached at the end of this paper.